12-2-09

Valley in Photos - a photographic run through the campus. »2

Man vs. Woman - two writers face off on this highly fierce debate. »3

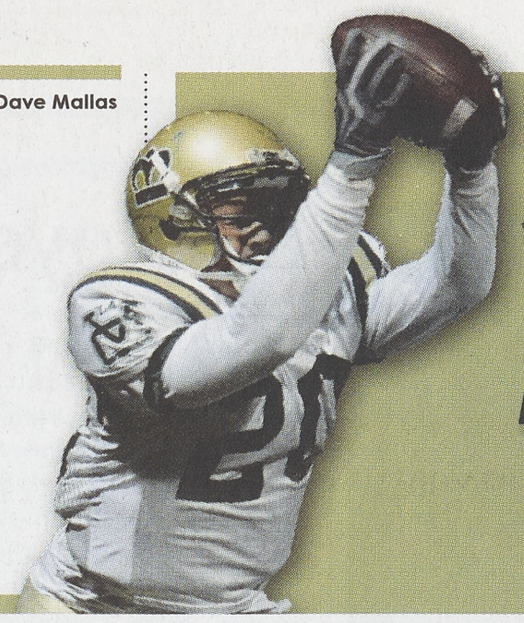
TAE Birthday - Club celebrates its 60 years on campus. »5

Baseball Coach Dave Mallas is profiled.

los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



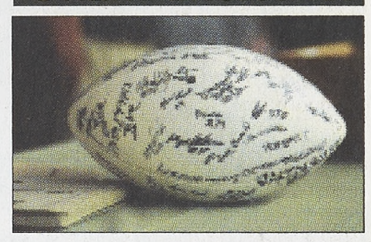
BANQUET

Valley football players and staff gathered last week in Monarch Hall to celebrate the season.

»6

lavalleystar.com | December 02, 2009 | Volume 71, Issue 9

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

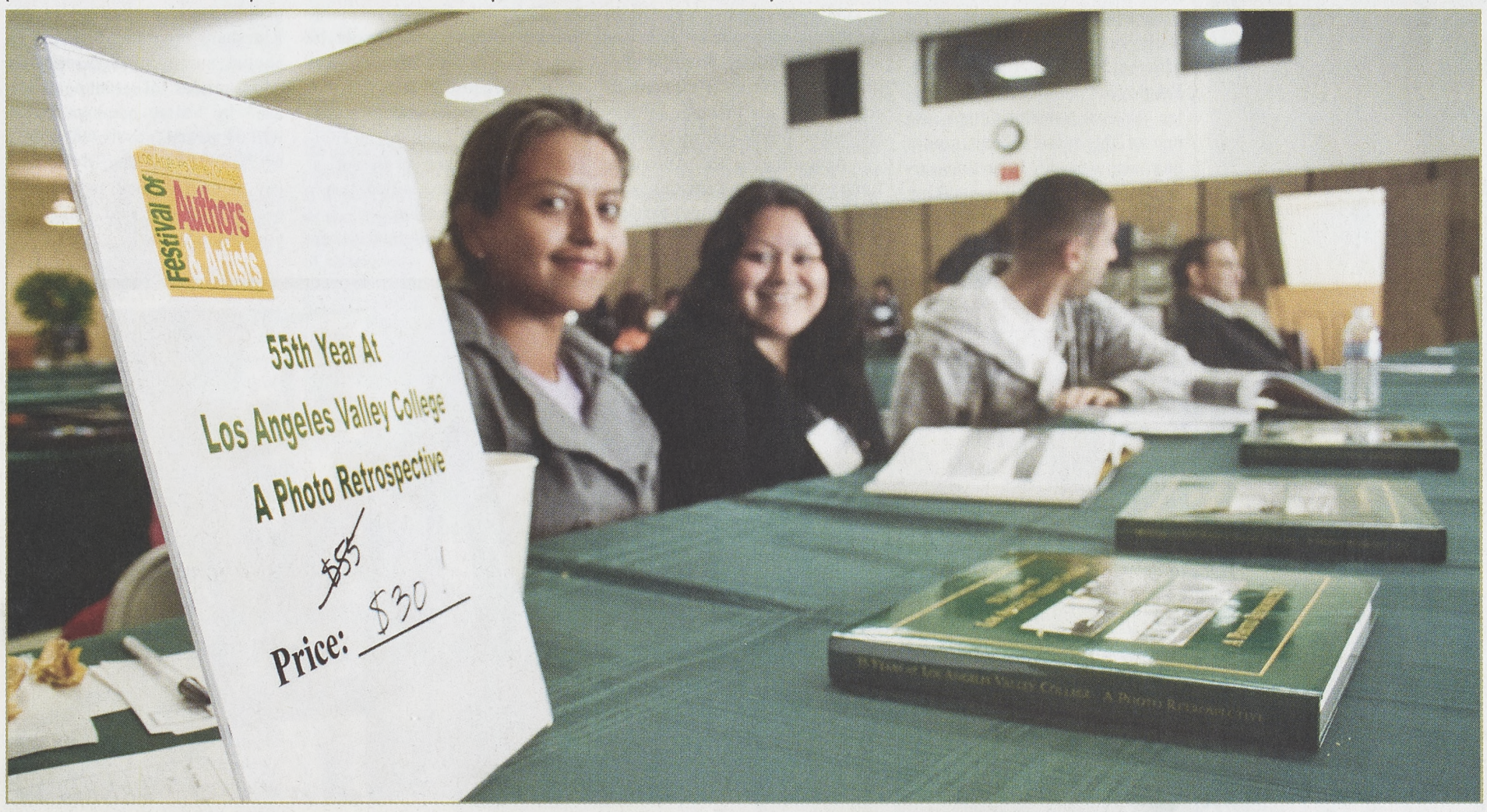


Monarch Football

More banquet photos as team are awarded and honored.

Charmaine Clamore

The number one Phillipino jazz vocalist interviews for a Q & A session just before this weekend's Jazz Festival in Hollywood.



ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

MONARCH FESTIVAL OF GOODIES - Members of TAU ALPHA EPSILLON, Perdomo and Rocio Benitez selling LAVC's 55th Anniversary book 25 dollars cheaper than advertised at LAVC Festival of Authors & Artists. Sponsors of the event were TAU, ASU and LAVC KVCM Radio Station on Tuesday at Monarch Hall.

Suicide Rates and the Troubling Economy

Suicide is at the fore front of health concerns among college students.

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER

The connection between our nationwide recession and suicide rates may once again be a growing issue as the current market struggles to stabilize. According to the American Association of Suicidology the third leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15-24 is suicide.

An American College Health Association survey found that 30 percent of college students felt "so depressed it was hard to function." Currently, USA Today polls found that as stress "shot up " in 2008, over-all emotional well being dropped because people found themselves worrying more about the economy.

"Suicide is not just the end of a job, [suicide] is something more long standing," explained Valley College Psychology Professor Ronald Mossler. Mossler added that suicide and depression do have a high correlation and those who attempt or commit suicide at least have a short-term history of depression.

College students sacrifice working full-time jobs, making them vulnerable to layoffs, to instead further their education. The unemployed are two to four times more likely to commit suicide than the employed, and while more people are seeking help, suicide rates are on the rise according to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Data collected by MSNBC shows national unemployment has currently been reported as high as 10.2 percent, the next report is to be released in December, unemployment numbers are expected go rise to 11 percent.

"I recently had a close family friend commit suicide. This person had experienced life a lot, so it can happen at any age," shared Valley student Reed Segovia, he went on to say, "Definitely [the economy] can affect especially students, it makes it harder and harder."

Those seeking degrees at 4-year universities and beyond are also looking at future debt and in 2009 reports surged of worried degree holding graduates entering an empty job market. CNN reported this year college grads had 40 percent fewer prospects. Jobs for graduates with bachelor's degrees, which account for most new graduate hires, will drop nearly 1 percent next year.

Campuses offer counseling to those suffering depression or excessive stress, yet shorter counseling sessions from doctors who work beyond their capacities could limit any consoling and relief a person needs.

Tootsa Coghlan works at Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center in suicide prevention and suicide hotline. "When things go bad with the economy the suicide call rates and phone lines went up 300 percent. The lines were so busy I was taking four or five calls. And, at least three of those calls had to do with the economic crisis." She explained, "We have so much more out there to reach than our parents did or even people ten years older than us did, so there is pressure of being successful. - Everyone needs to calm down."

Information from the Archives of General Psychiatry also stated

|See **SUICIDE**, Page 2|

DANE R.NAIMY | VALLEY STAR

TUITION HIKE - Jasmin Castillo double majors in English and Chicano Studies. She decided not to apply for UCs this semester because of the recent tution hikes, even though she has enough credits to transfer.

Fee Hikes a Problem for Valley Students

Students hoping to transfer must hold back after current fee hikes put a dent in plans.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Working two jobs to cover rent, bills, and other living expenses is an all too real certainty for many Valley College students, including English and chicano studies major Jasmin Castillo. Recent fee hikes from the University of Southern California have forced the 21-year-old to push back her transferring deadline, as she struggles to pay the already-increasing costs of community college and the everyday life of a student.

"It's ironic that furthering your education can set you behind," said Castillo, who already has enough units from Valley to transfer.

"I have been putting off applying because Valley just seems like the only affordable education right now. Hopefully the situation betters soon and when it does I'll consider applying but right now taking on the costs seems more like a burden than an opportunity."

The University of California's Board of Regents recently approved a two-step student fee increase that will raise undergraduate education costs more than $2,500, or 32 percent, by next fall.

Castillo plans on paying the extra fees through student loans and scholarships, and feels discouraged that she may have to think with her head rather than her heart.

"It places a lot of pressure on picking a major because we no longer have the luxury of studying to learn," she said. "Learning for the sake of self improvement has become too lofty an idea. We have to pick majors that are going to earn us the big bucks if only to pay back these student loans."

Castillo stated that any resolution will be difficult, but that students should be the last ones to feel the brunt of a tough economy.

"[President Bill] Clinton had the right idea when he stated that the first two years of college should be equally affordable throughout and went about doing so with tax credits and loan reductions," said Castillo. "Although I understand that we're in a tough economic situation and things are inevitably getting more and more expensive, there has to be more we can do, and schools should be the last place where costs escalate."

She believes students are the simple target for a dire and complicated situation.

"In all honesty, no matter how you spin it we all end up being the 'Peter's' being robbed to pay Paul, and we eventually feel the sting of the recession directly or indirectly."

ASU Discuss Affairs at Meeting

GUADALUPE GONZÁLEZ
STAFF WRITER

LaRaza member Samuel Lara appeared at the ASU meeting Tuesday to address the executive council for "unjustly patronizing" the club for its Indigenous Awareness Day event held in October. He accused ASU Vice President Ian Coyne of not allowing an open-door meeting to resolve the issue and resorting only to a close-door meeting.

"We feel like we deserve the money," said Lara. "We did everything well."

LaRaza is currently under investigation after allegedly violating ASU rules at its event. All funds for the club have been frozen until the investigation is complete.

Coyne denied the accusation of having a close-door meeting. He claimed he proposed the club or its advisor address a letter to the ASU, which they never did.

After defending Coyne, ASU President Arthur Minasyan said that "those issues will be addressed formerly."

Speech and Debate coach Joshua Miller also attended the meeting to thank the ASU for funding Valley's team for the Robert Barbera Invitational held at CSUN, where they competed against schools such as UC Davis, UCLA.. After Miller's successes report, the executive council unanimously approved a motion for an additional $750 for the Speech and Debate team for their next tournament at Mount San Antonio College this Sunday.

The ASU also unanimously passed motions to provide $250 for the Eco-Advocates club to purchase rights to the documentary film No Impact Man that will be shown to students, $850 for expenses during Region 7, and $100 to purchase class catalogues for the ASU office.

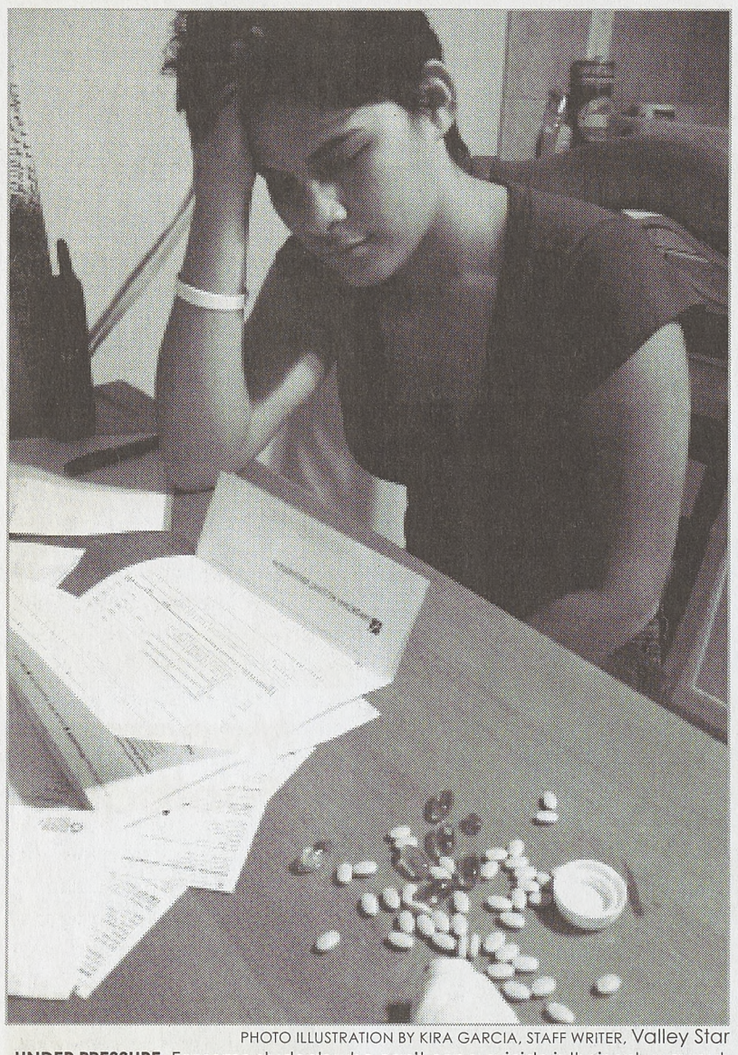


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KIRA GARCIA, STAFF WRITER, Valley Star
UNDER PRESSURE- For some students who can't cope, suicide is their only way out.

SUICIDE

Continued from page 1

that alcohol disorders afflict one in five college students, and personality disorders are present in 17.7 percent of students. Through experience and knowledge obtained in her field of work, Coghlan confirmed that most who contemplate suicide, or form "suicide plans" are those who had previously suffered from mental disorders or have a history of drug or alcohol abuse. A statistic in suicide research as she states is that, " One in 12 college students have made a suicide plan."

Employee Rideshare Available at Valley

In the spirit of a greener campus, Valley takes part in scheme to encourage staff to "ride share."

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER

In the spirit of attaining a "greener" Valley College campus, the Rideshare Incentive Program provides motivation for Valley employees to find fuel-efficient ways of getting to work. Employees can receive a dollar for every workday they use one of the fuel-efficient modes of transportation, including carpooling, walking, biking, taking the bus, or driving an alternative fuel vehicle to get to work.

The program is part of the Southern California Air Quality Management, District Associate Vice President Raul Gonzalez explains.

"The goal of that [the program] is to decrease the number of vehicles on the road, or at least coming to work," he said. "The more people we can get to participate in those types of activities to get to work the better it will be for the environment."

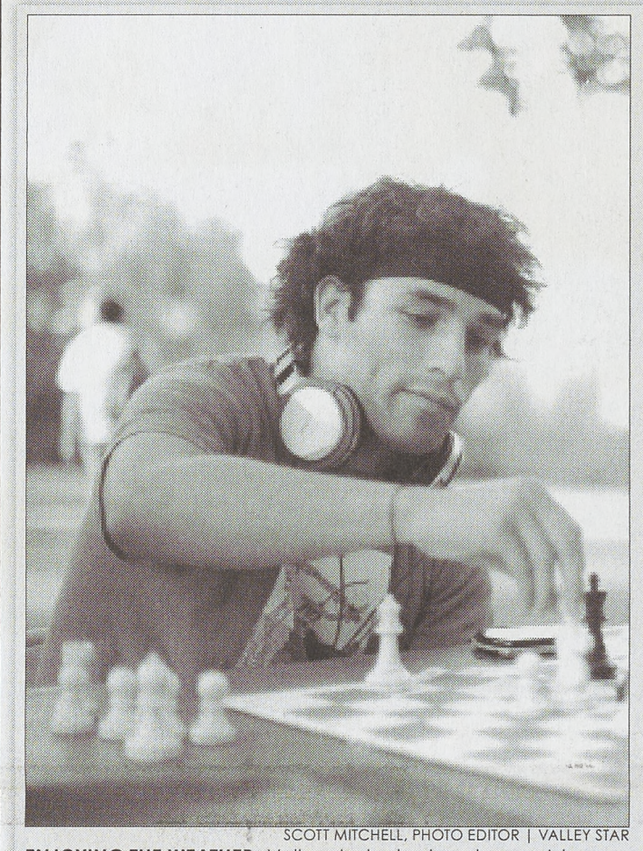
The Rideshare program also provides an extra $15 a month to employees, this includes professors using public transportation.

According to the American Lung Association statistics, Los Angeles failed its annual particle pollution grade, receiving the fourth highest weighted average of particle pollution this year. Other counties in the run for the worst annual grade were Fresno, Kern, and Riverside. An article in the Los Angeles Times reported that the largest contributors to air pollution in areas like Bakersfield, Kern County are heavy-duty trucks and farm equipment.

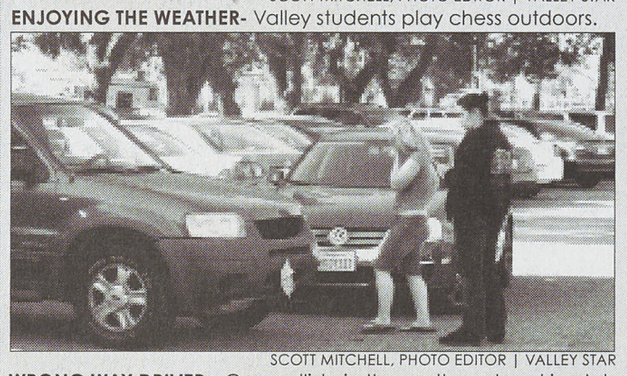
The pool of employees able to receive incentives cannot be broadened to student workers simply because Valley cannot afford to provide the extra incentives. Meredith Leonard, an environmental science professor at Valley College explained L.A.'s specific smog problem.

"Photochemical smog is literally our own L.A. smog," caused by our automobiles as opposed to agricultural smog produced in Bakersfield, Calif. She does not use the Valley Rideshare program since she travels from "across the hill" to the valley and arranging an employee carpool is more difficult than it seems.

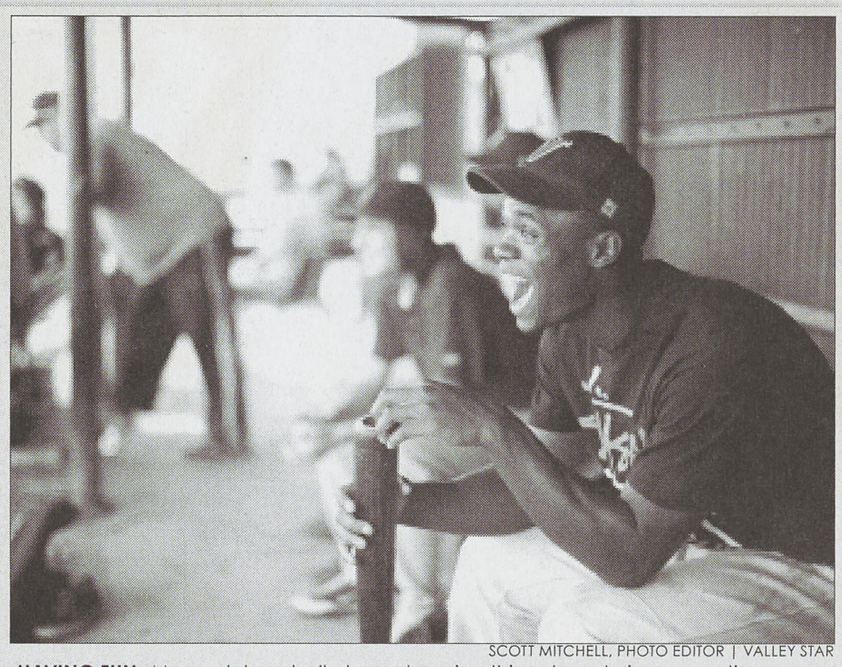
By law any establishment that employs more than 250 people, must participate in the Rideshare program. There is an annual survey that determines what modes of transportation used by Valley employees that will be turned into the SCAQMD by Dec. 2. The date of the survey is undisclosed to employees, as Gonzalez said, "Only I'm allowed to know."



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
ENJOYING THE WEATHER- Valley students play chess outdoors.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
WRONG WAY DRIVER - Cars collide in the south east parking lot.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
HAVING FUN- Monarch baseball players keeping things lose during a practice game.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
THE DEBATE-Chris Essel and Paul Krekorian answer questions in Monarch Hall Monday.

Student Sustainability On Transportation During Workshop

AN ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR
SUSTAINABILITY -Sustainable Works' Coordinator, Holli Fajack works on student environmental food audits.

The LACCD Sustainable Works Project continues its series of workshops.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Transportation was one of the main topics discussed during the Student Sustainability Workshop meeting on Monday, sponsored by the LACCD Sustainable Works Project.

The workshop is an eight-week program open to all Valley College students. The non-profit environmental education organization consists of people who are interested in learning about environmental issues and solutions they can apply to their own lives to make a positive impact.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring the workshop to LAVC and so far we have found the students to be very receptive and excited about the program," said program coordinator Holli Fajack.

During each meeting, members discuss and participate in sustainable activities to find ways to help the environment, from finding ways to help local communities or informing people on how they can save money on their utility bills as well as conserving energy. Groups participate with each other as they work together and create ways people can take advantage of energy efficient recourses.

During their sixth meeting each member gave a small presentation on how people can find better ways of transportation by finding other resources that are better for the environment. Ride Share, Riding bicycles, walking or taking public transit were some of the resources mentioned during the meeting.

Members are also required to participate in three hours of community service and complete an extensive sustainability survey. They are also eligible for 12-month paid internships working with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified to document and certify the construction of a new green building on the LAVC campus.

"Next semester we hope to be able to incorporate some field trips into the program as well as to work with ASO's Commissioner for Environmental Affairs and the Eco Advocates Club to organize and support more sustainability related events on campus," said Fajack.

If you are interested in learning more or have questions you can e-mail Holli Fajack at holli.fajack@sustainableworks.org

Experience Doesn't Have to be Work

A. RAMACHANDRAN
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

As a new set of job seekers prepare to sift through the rubble of this job market, they're learning a harsh truth. "You need experience to get a job and you can't get a job without experience." The LACCD Interns program can help with both and often while one is still a student.

The Interns Program provides professional opportunities through all nine Los Angeles Community College campuses. Private firms contracting with the bond program offer internship prospects and real world work experience to students pursuant to their business activities. In many cases, the positions are paid. Through these opportunities, interns gain exposure to a variety of occupations and personal career development in full and part-time positions.

Disciplines in which students can find internships include: architecture, engineering, computer technology fields, marketing, management, customer service and clerical.

"Students can gain relative work experience while they are still in school," said Delicia Nahman, Sustainability Coordinator for Build-LACCD/PV Jobs. "This way they can get one more foot in the door as they graduate and attempt to enter the job market."

The student uploads a profile to the LACCD Interns website and then works with a personal counselor. PV Jobs provides a personalized matching service between qualified students and employers. Students can also search the database and call their counselor to express interest in a position. The counselor then verifies and submits the candidate.

"Internships and part-time jobs also help students transfer," Nahman said. "You're learning in school and applying that knowledge in the professional world. Admissions Committee see the academic and professional connection and find that valuable when considering students."

Students can obtain more information and enroll in the service at http://www.laccdinterns.org.

THE VALLEY STAR STAFF & INFO

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:
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Male Role Conditioning Exploits the Lives of All American Men

Male disposability is on display on the walls of Valley College's Behavioral Sciences building.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Names of the dead from the War on Terror are displayed on the hallway walls of Valley College's Behavioral Sciences building, but those names are just the tip of an iceberg that shows the role of men as the disposable sex in American society.

As of Nov. 4, 2009, there have been 5,268 soldier deaths in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 5,165 of those deaths have been men, according to icasualties.org. More than 98 percent of the war dead are men. By law, women are exempt from front line combat, even though front lines are vague and women have found themselves in deadly situations more than in any other American war. Historically, men are approximately 99.999% of American deaths and casualties, according to U.S. Department of Defense Records. Women are not even required to register for selective service when turning 18, as men are, and men face numerous harsh penalties if they fail to register, according to the Selective Service System.

Every human life is precious, but it appears female human lives are more precious. Given statistic after statistic that points to men's lives as being expendable at a far higher percentage than women's, and programs and services far less available to meet men's needs than women's, it is obvious men's lives are not considered of equal value to women's. American laws and lawmakers are not protecting men's lives as equally as women's.

Of the 15 leading causes of death in America, men lead in 12 categories, are tied in two, and women lead in only one, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Yet there is an Office of Women's Health at the federal level, at the California state level, and at the local Los Angeles county level. None for men exist anywhere in the United States, but other Offices of Women's Health exist in numerous regions throughout the U.S.

Men are approximately: 94 percent of industrial accidents and deaths, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Men are approximately 80 percent of suicides, according to the Center for Disease Control. Men are approximately 76 percent of homicides, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Men are approximately 93 percent of the prison population, according to "The Sentencing Project." Men are also a significant percentage of domestic violence victims, according to the DOJ and CDC.

It's high time that the status of men and men's health, which contributes to their disposability is accurately and equitably addressed at all levels of government, including college level liberal arts curriculum and men's studies programs. To do otherwise, smacks of a misandrist disingenuousness that clearly reinforces the role of all males as second-class citizens under the tyranny of a government that does not equally protect, or value, their lives.

Housewife Stereotype Remains Dominant Along with the Male

Although males feel threatened by a small number of powerful women, the female is still undermined.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I am female. I have deathly-pale delicate-looking skin, a "well-to-do" accent and mostly ladylike manner. For these reasons, I am under-minded, disrespected and misunderstood by many of my peers because of a stereotype and discrimination that only a female can understand. The prejudice and lack of value I experience is barely spoken about because of one reason; it is accepted.

Sexism has occurred for years. While we have made huge steps to conquer this, the current state of the male/female role in society has become a label that men use to control each of us and this begins with the engraining of norms at school. According to Cosmiclog.com, teachers call on boys in classrooms from three to eight times more frequently than they call on girls. Ironically the female population continues to overtake the males in grades and degrees at the end of college.

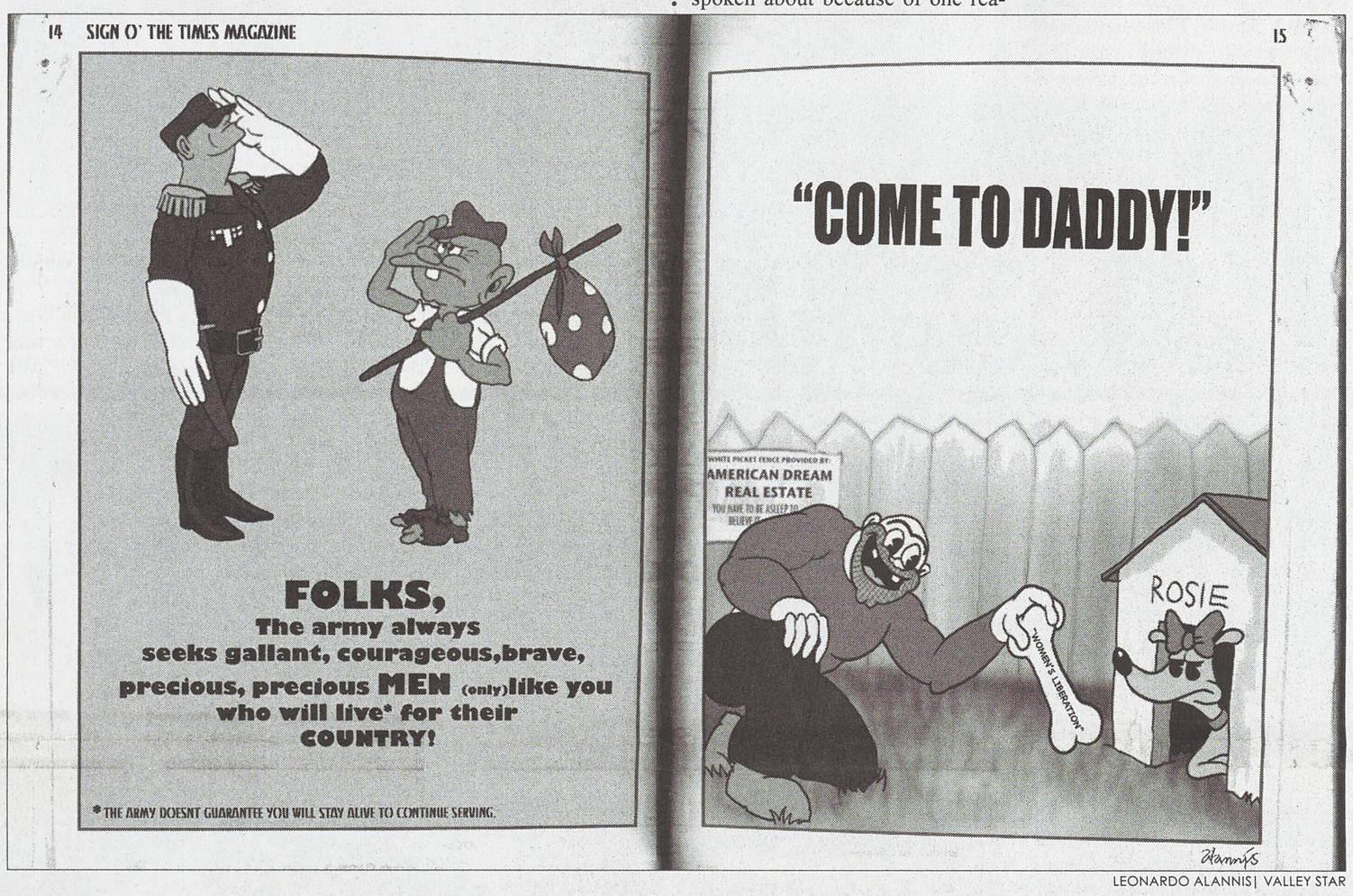
As males may suggest a woman's role in society has now overtaken their once-dominant ways, the statistics are unreliable at best.

Although the male death rate throughout each war is overwhelmingly higher than that of females, this is due to their own masculine "head cock" attitude – men as a whole do not believe a woman can do a "man's job," which includes fighting for our country. It is unfair to cry "conspiracy" when it is clear that men crave the power and dominance of the nation they have always held. Women are pushed down to take on jobs within the military and most other physical jobs. Men feel special by completing the stronger, more physical roles within society. This has nothing to do with female dominance; it has everything to do with the cave man takeover still engrained within many males.

"Historically and throughout my life, I have witnessed men being more dominant," said Valley College student Kent Cruz. "But it is changing at least somewhat. we need change and that's a good thing."

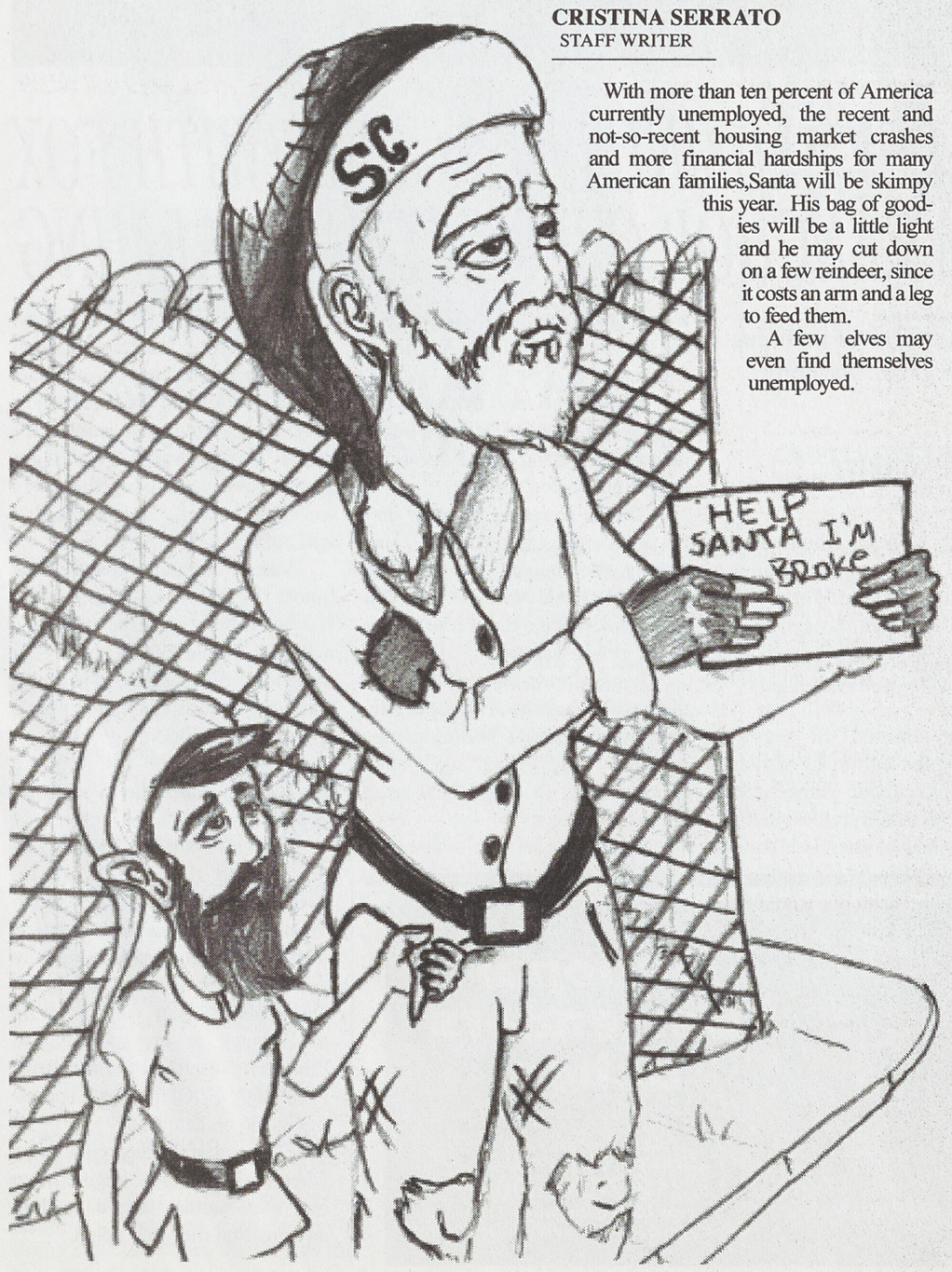
The statistics and opinions are available. The feminists are ready and willing to convince you of why and how we are still treated so very differently. I am neither a statistic nor a feminist. I believe in the equal rights of each person, regardless of gender boundaries and any other discrimination people choose to create such as color, social class and sexual preference. Sadly we are a nation of bullies and when an act of hate continues for too long it becomes a norm. This is what sexism has become.

Don't push me down because of your ignorance; beneath my soft spoken, ivory-washed appearance is the same muscle and bone as my male counterpart; we are all human, after all.


14 SIGN O' THE TIMES MAGAZINE
FOLKS,
The army always seeks gallant, courageous,brave, precious, precious MEN (only)like you who will live* for their COUNTRY!
*THE ARMY DOESNT GUARANTEE YOU WILL STAY ALIVE TO CONTINUE SERVING.
15
"COME TO DADDY!"
WHITE PICKET FENCE PROVIDED BY:
AMERICAN DREAM REAL ESTATE
"WOMEN'S LIBERATION"
ROSIE
LEONARDO ALANNIS| VALLEY STAR

Santa is Looking a bit Thinner This Christmas Season

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER



With more than ten percent of America currently unemployed, the recent and not-so-recent housing market crashes and more financial hardships for many American families,Santa will be skimpy this year. His bag of goodies will be a little light and he may cut down on a few reindeer, since it costs an arm and a leg to feed them.

A few elves may even find themselves unemployed.

"There's not much money this year, spnding money, buying presents or celebrating might not happen this Christmas," said Valley College Business Administration student Jorge Nikolov.

Many ae hoping that this Christmas will bring a boost to the U.S. economy, but others such as Silobreaker.com expect a drop in Christmas revenue for the second year in a row. All US buyers who celebrate Christmas seem to be looking for the best deals.

"I'm not even sure if I'm going to have any money for Christmas, at this point Ican only assume there's going to be zero Christmas," said a disheartened Valley student, Kimberly Horton. "People on a fixed income, like me, are suffering more than ever this year."

Consumers can reap the benefit of the marketers slow sales after Christmas, when prices are expected to be slashed by 70-80 percent or more. Some childen may have to accept the fact that Santa will be a few days late in order to get everything on their Christmas list, while the adults; who are less affected by the Christmas spirit, will be happy to get such a bargain.

"I really don't think that the recession is going to affect my Christmas much, but it will affect my younger brother and sisters, since they want more gifts," said Valley nursing student Christina Arthur.

Hopefully we all can show a little more goodwill to our fellow man in this time of need for some. Local charities, food bank or the Toys for Tots campaign may all need some change; this year more children may go without even one present, more families are homeless and food has truly become a luxury for some. Santa may have to make a late appearance for a few families, but later is better than never.

VALLEY VIEW | ARE WOMEN DOMINATING OUR SOCIETY?

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

I think women are exposing themselves too much, showing their sexuality and losing respect.
- REINA DELARA, FILM STUDIES

As hard as women try, men are always going to think they are in charge.
- JUSTIN EDWARDS, ENGINEERING

Men still have the dominant roles. Women should be confident, it's good to see both sides.
- LUCIA VALLE, NURSING

Some men remain dominant and others not. Men are afraid of sexual harassment charges.
- EMMA HARTEL, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Letter to the Editor

RE: ASU Stance on Supporting a Smoke-Free Campus

I want to congratulate ASU for taking a stand on a smoking ban. It appears that it has been a lot harder for faculty and staff at Valley College to come up with a policy to make LAVC a Smoke-Free Campus.

I find it amazing that students who come from smoke-free high schools feel that it is okay to come to Valley College and walk around smoking. Some of our own college faculty and staff smoke where they are not supposed to. Some smoke while driving around in their carts, leaving their second-hand smoke along their paths. If they worked at a high school, they would not be able to smoke in prohibited areas. So, why is it okay here?

We don't smoke in restaurants, hospitals, many colleges and universities, malls, some beaes, churches, temples, grocery stores, office buildings, outdoor stadiums, and the list goes on and on. Why do we feel we can here?

I urge ASU to continue advocating for this smoking ban. We will be a much healthier campus for it. And as for enforcement, it may be burdensome for a while, but in the end, once the message is out that our campus is smoke-free, students and staff will just have to make the same adjustments that they make at other smoke-free places. Smokers can smoke as long as the air I breathe is not contaminated with their second-hand smoke (which is just as dangerous or more than the smoke they fill their lungs with).

Sylvia Rodriguez
LAVC Counselor

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Now - Dec. 10
Parent & Baby Sessions (Infants) Thursdays from 12-1 p.m. (Bungalow 49). Contact: Family Resource Center 818.778.5612 or huff-gf@lavc.edu

Now - Dec. 17 Monday - Thursday
"In Plain View: Photographs from the Vietnam War" Mini Exhibit @ 9-10 p.m. (Art Building Hallway Display Cases); Free Contact: 818.778.5536

"Seeing in Color: Photographs from the Stephen White Collection II" Exhibition @ 11-2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery); Free Contact: 818.778.5536

Wednesday, 2nd
Music Department Presents "World Music Concert" @ 1 p.m. (Music Recital Hall - M106); Free Contact: Music Department 818.778.5633

Thursday, 3rd
Music Department Presents "LAVC Performance Workshop" @ 11:30 a.m. (Music Recital Hall - M106); Free Contact: Music Department 818.778.5633

Sunday, 6th
Music Department Presents "LAVC Choir Holiday Concert" @ 7 p.m. (Monarch Hall); Tickets: $10 Contact: Music Department 818.778.5633

Monday, 7th
Student Sustainability Workshop "Meeting 2: Shopping and Food" sponsored by the LACCD Sustainable Works Project @ 12-1:30 p.m. (Allied Health & Sciences 152) Contact: Sustainableworks@gmail.com

Music Department Presents "LAVC Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert" @ 8 p.m. (Main Stage Theater); Tickets: $5 Contact: Music Department 818.778.5633

Tuesday, 8th
Blood Drive sponsored by LAVC Student Health Center @ 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Monarch Hall) Contact: Sonia Nodal 818.947.2918

Music Department Presents "LAVC Performance Workshop" @ 11:20 a.m. (Music Recital Hall - M106); Free Contact: Music Department (818) 778-5633

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, 2nd
CSU Northridge Rep 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1 p.m - 2 p.m

Thursday, 3rd
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, 7th
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 8th
Mount St. Mary's College Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop 1 - 2 p.m.

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) For more information and sign-up call 818.947.2646.

TAU ALPHA EPSILON CELEBRATES 60 YEARS AT VALLEY COLLEGE WITH AN ANNIVERSARY GATHERING

Valley's biggest, oldest, and most active club celebrates its 60th anniversary.

GUADALUPE GONZÁLEZ
STAFF WRITER

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

THE HONORS SOCIETY - At LAVC's Festival of Artists and Authors United taking a moment to gather for a club photo.

It was a happy birthday for Valley College's honor society Tau Alpha Epsilon, who celebrated its 60th anniversary in Monarch Hall Wednesday. Speakers including faculty members Richard Raskoff, William Wallis, and Valley President Sue Carleo- congratulated the organization for its continued success.

After the recognition ceremony, TAE continued its birthday party with the rest of the campus in Monarch Square. With their balloon party hats still on their heads, they shared finger foods and beverages and socialized with other students. Certain members even fooled around looking for opponents for a battle at amateur rapping.

"It's a lot about having fun," said TAE president José Estrada. "That's what brings us together."

TAE was founded in 1949 and since then has maintained its reputation as the most respected and honored club on campus, according to its Web site. Many of its members are also actively involved in other of other clubs. Past member have continued with prestige after their time at Valley. Faculty sponsor and English department Head Alfred Zucker was the president of TAE in 1959.

"The comradeship in the honor society is phenomenal," said Dr. Zucker. "It enables students to form a grand sense of satisfaction in helping other students." He said the organization gives students "a fraternity of people who are interested in the same thing they want."

Tamara Harutyunyan, current TAE member, agreed.

"I think it's an awesome community where you meet people who have similar academic goals," she said. Harutyunyan added that it is a great way to make friends on a campus where many students just walk to their next class without much interaction.

Since she has met other TAE members who are involved in other clubs, Harutyunyan is planning to join another as well, most likely the Art club. "It makes you want to be here other than just our time in class," she said.

TAE also promoted their current and future activities while celebrating in Monarch Square, such as their fundraising for Habitat for Humanity.

TAE members are selling $2 tickets for an opportunity drawing for prizes of a Smart Pen, Bluetooth headset, four AMC movie passes, or an American Express giftcard. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity and the other half for student scholarships. They are also assisting in the Artists & Authors event on Dec. 1, where they will be holding a book drive. The will be excepting any book without water or spine damage, even if the book has writing or highlighting. For more information regarding TAE and its events go to www.taualphaepsilon.org or email tae.lavc@gmail.com.

BSU AND ASU DELIVER FIRST TALENT-FILLED SHOW

Open mic night raises awareness for Valley's Black Student Union.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

The sound of a didgeridoo playing along with singers and stand-up comics delivering laughs it up the fireside room Thursday, during the first Black Student Union and Associated Student Union-sponsored open mic night "LAVC Got Talent" at Valley College.

The BSU which consists of 20-25 members meets every Tuesday from 2:50 to 4:00 p.m. in the Foreign Language building. The club decided to have their first open mic night during one their brainstorming sessions and voted as a group to produce the event in order to help raise awareness for the organization.

"We wanted to do something that would bring students together and yet they would get to hear some of talent from around campus and maybe the community," said Lisa Martin, president of the club." We hoped that it would impact people to want more and be excited for the next BSU event."

The event started at 7 p.m. as guests started to enter the decorated fireside room, which was filled with snacks and drinks. Around 40 people showed up as the performances began. People from a variety of ages and backgrounds performed. Acts also included poetry reading.

Before the event the club made a flyer which was posted around campus so students and anyone else interested could sign up and audition for the event.

"We also promoted it during the ASU Club Days leading up to the Open Mic night, signing people up and following up with them." said Martin.

Students and performers were both impressed with the turnout and high level of ability showcased.

"The talent show was really fun. But the range of talents was really great," said Valley student Alonso Figueroa who participated in the event. "These kinds of school activities should be held more often."

BSU will continue festivities into the end of the year. They plan to hold a Kwanzaa celebration in early December. For more information you can e-mail the group at bsulavc@gmail.com.

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LEONARDO ALANNIS) | VALLEY STAR

VALLEY ALUMNUS DISAGREES WITH FOX NEWS ANCHOR OVER GLOBAL WARMING

Emotions apparent in discussion over global warming issues.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Valley College Alumnus Ed Begley, Jr. appeared in a segment of FOX News's "Your World" with Stuart Varney five days after his appearance at Valley, where he'd discussed climate change and global warming.

Varney opened the segment questioning the legitimacy of global warming and climate change scientists' peer reviewed studies, in light of recently leaked scientist's emails from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in England.

About halfway through the FOX News segment, Varney introduced Begley and asked questions regarding Begley's stance.

"There seems to be some discussion among the climate community that maybe the evidence isn't there," said Varney. "Do you ever think that maybe you're wrong about global warming?"

Begley immediately defended the position held by Anthropogenic (man made) Global Warming supporters. Begley's talking points were similar to those he'd used when he spoke at Valley.

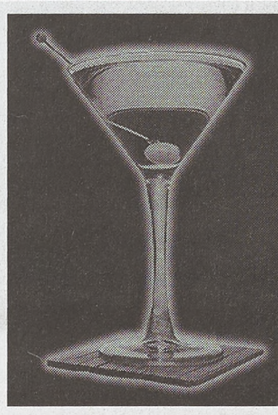
"I think the science is very clear on global warming," said Begley. "Don't get your information from me, folks, or any news caster. Get it from people with Ph.d. after their name. Peer reviewed studies are the key words. And if it comes out in peer reviewed studies that there are some cooking the books that will come out."

Varney countered that Senator Inhofe (R- Oklahoma) has a list of 700 scientists that have problems with the whole theory of global warming, but Begley countered that they were not 700 climate scientists.

"The science is not in," said Varney as again the discussion escalated.

"It is in," said Begley. "Stuart quit saying that. It is so in. Peer reviewed studies… Go to Science Magazine folks, go to Nature Magazine, go to somebody you trust, National Geographic. Don't get it from you (pointing to Varney), or me (pointing to himself). Don't get it from Rush Limbaugh, or Glenn Beck (pointing to the on camera)."

The end of the interview came when the time for the segment ran out, with neither side conceding any position they had taken.



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FOUR MORE PLAYS FROM THE BLACK BOX THEATRE

Second week of student plays from Valley's Theater department.

A. RAMACHANDRAN
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Ryan Husk's "Cosmo, Cosmos & the Cosmos" opened the second weekend of Valley College theater series "After 4-Play." The commentary on the complexities of modern love featured Courtnie DiPiazza as 'everygirl' Sandy, searching for the right man. Simon Daniel Lees played best friend Andy. Ryan Fabian was her love interest, Hank.

Although the play was humorous, thought provoking and generally well performed, Lees' portrayal of Andy, a flamboyant homosexual was an annoying and obvious characterization choice. The stereotypical gay man caricature detracted from Andy's importance catalyst for Sandy's change and somewhat damaged his credibility as messenger.

Andy played as an everyman instead of as vamping buffoon would have more truthfully underscored his and Sandy's intimacy as they talked about their relationships. If his homosexuality were just a subplot point revealed more artfully, it would have provided a more gratifying audience epiphany why Sandy and Andy would not work as a couple. That contrast would have been especially effective against Sandy's low-life love interest, Hank.

Andy nonetheless still impresses upon Sandy that the only way to get a "Mr. Right" is to value her own self and be happy before pursuing a relationship.

For a one-act play, Husk still built in three-act depth and dimensionality. The writing of the novel and the contributions of the fictional Sandy (Camille Falciola), Andy (Lees) & Hank (Ryan Duffy) punctuates and propels the action. Husk effectively explores and explodes many relationship clichés.

Husk said he wrote this play against a class deadline. He continued with it when the initial humor became more refined during the work-shopping process with Prof. Pete Parkin and his playwriting classmates.

"If You, Then Me" by Karen Gagnon explores how some men get over a break-up and the emotional collateral thereof. The play opened with Alex (Timothy Miller) discovering his ex-girlfriend's amateur porno movie on the Internet.

Where most men would "get over the last girl by getting on top of another one," Alex abused his position as a teaching assistant and poached his female students for a revenge video. The plot thickens, sickens, and backfires on Alex. The good woman scorned, Victoria (Camille Falciola), ultimately teaches Alex the "hard" lesson that sometimes it's best to just take your chips and bounce rather than indulge retribution.

Michael Rosenberg's "A Pirate's Pardon," examines the constant struggle between our personal codes and social expectations. Public defender Zachary Noble (Kris Toranzo) had to defend the pirate Grogpuddle (Anthony Nuckolls) against circumstantial charges. As the deposition began, Noble extolled the comparative virtue of his own beliefs against Grogpuddle's.

As the conversation continued, Noble lost ground. It was interesting to watch Noble melt in the face of Grogpuddle's cross-examination and defense of the ethicality of his free-living ideals.

Ultimately, the audience realized that Noble needed Grogpuddle's pardon and not the other way around. This became evident when two connect as the pirate quotes, Ecclesiastes VIII. 15 (AV), "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry." Grogpuddle did no more and Noble realized he needed to do no less.

Rosenberg wrote his play because he wanted to "write something with a pirate and a naïve lawyer and have hilarity ensue."

In the final offering, "Talking with God," God (Aaron Guerrero) appeared to Bob (Matthew L. Middleton) pondering the problems of religion, science and existence. Guerrero, in a Charlton Heston meets Bruce Campbell timbre explained that, "Everything gets destroyed and remade, that's just the nature of things" and that "Life was meant to be enjoyed."

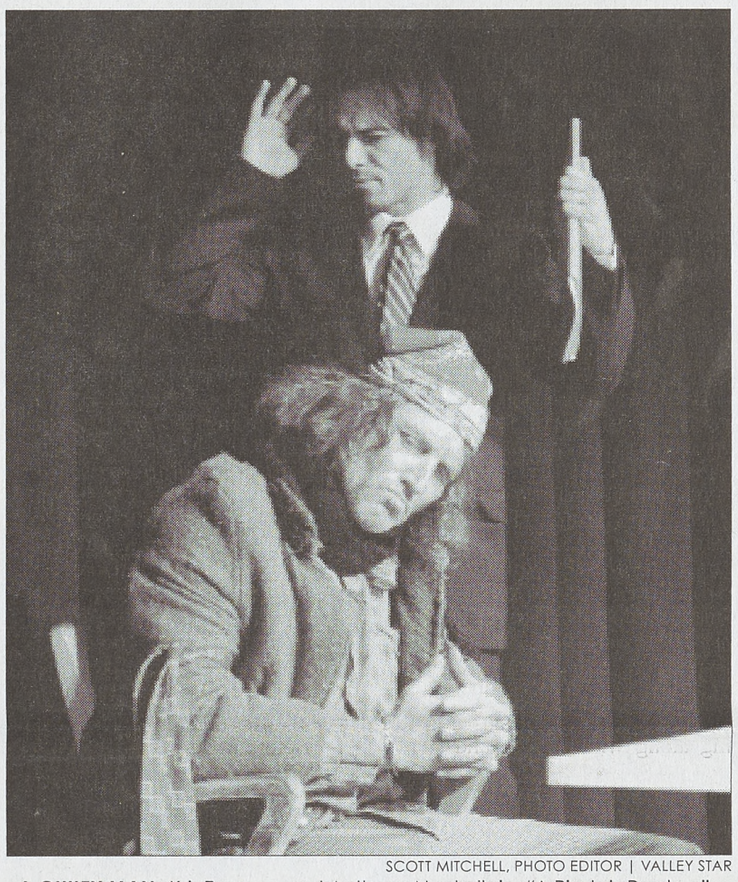
The final play highlighted the idea that humans needed to stop overcomplicating life.

Bob Finkel started writing, "Talking with God" after his father died in 2007. "I found myself talking to God a lot and this came out of it," Finkel said. "The class was great in helping me fine tune it. I felt like it put us further down the road to becoming professionals and seeing your play come to life four nights in a row makes you realize it's possible," Finkel continued.

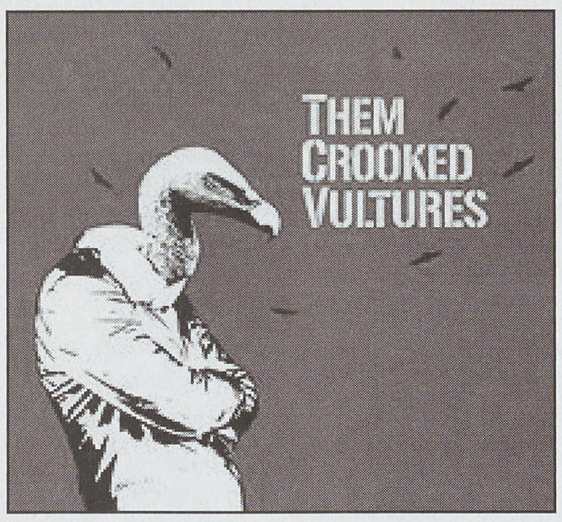
Amanda Yollin, Emily Lehrer, Robert Machado, Brian Morin, Paolo Cucchi, Shawn Conklin, J.C. Gafford, A.C. Gardner, Jason Alexander, Darrell Bishop, Khody Williams facilitated these dramatic feats by managing sound, set design, costumes and stage. The set pieces, music, sound effects and the transitions between scenes within the plays helped the audience remain engaged. We forgot the black box and our own lives as we shared in characters' lives, professions, incarceration, and looks into the void.

Bravo! Brava!

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
DRAMA QUEEN - Simon Daniel Lees dolls up in,"Cosmo, Cosmos & Cosmos."



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
A GUILTY MAN- Kris Toranzo and Anthony Nuckolls in, "A Pirate's Pardon."



MORE THAN THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

The term "supergroup" is usually met with shock and awe. Awe, when seeing the people involved in the project and shock at the glaring shortcomings in the final result.

Them Crooked Vultures is the very definition of the term supergroup as far as star power is concerned. What's different about this power trio comprised of Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters), Josh Homme (Queens of the Stone Age), and John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is that the band not only sounds as if they've been playing for years but there is no inherent power play to steal the limelight. The psychedelic groove the band confines themselves to is awfully impressive and is the closest thing to Led Zeppelin and QOTSA having a baby with Grohl as the midwife.

The power trio comes together on songs "Elephants," and "No One Loves Me & Neither Do I" incorporating Homme's slick riffs, Grohl's powerful drumming and Jones' fuzzy bass lines perfectly. The album sojourns into each members strong suits but leaves the song as the main focus.

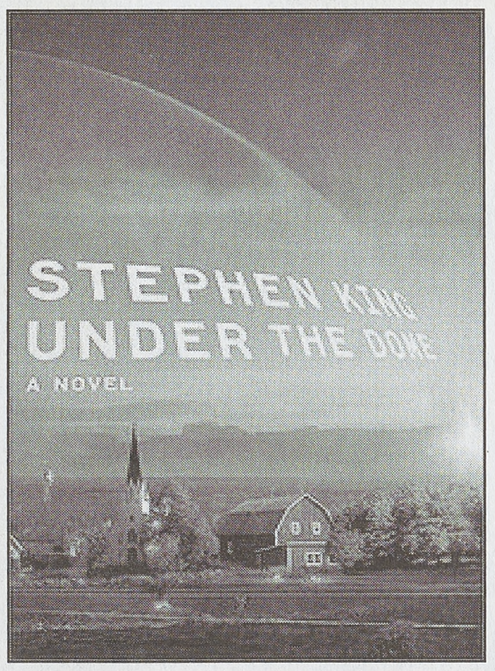
The eponymous album stars off with "New Fang," which could've easily been a lost track from QOTSA's "Songs for the Deaf." Tracks such as "Mind Eraser, No Chaser," "Dead End Friends," and "Gunman" are more styled to Homme's earlier works in Kyuss and his "Desert Sessions" projects. While the album as a whole is more suited to Homme's song structure and Grohl's exceptional drumming, Jones is the star of the show.

As Jones did in Led Zeppelin, he lets the drummer and guitarist take the spotlight while the bassist sets the tone for the album. The strongest tracks on "Them Crooked Vultures" are the ones Jones is most prominent on. "Scumbag Blues" follows where Zeppelin's "Nobody's Fault But Mine" left off and "Caligulove" is the band's strongest track.

"Them Crooked Vultures" adds nothing new to the pantheon of riffy, moody stoner rock but rather show three top notch musicians at the top of their craft. This album is a treat for fans of QOTSA or Led Zeppelin but listening to the source material is recommended before uncorking this album.

STEPHEN KING HAS MASTERED THE ART OF FEAR

Fear resides under the dome in Stephen King's latest thriller.



CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Stephen King's newest novel, "Under the Dome" is an enthralling page-turner from page one to 1088. Reading this novel proved to be much faster than I originally thought, since it was almost impossible to put down.

Set in the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine, "Under the Dome" very quickly captures the readers' attention with an intense and graphically gory beginning and introduces some of the novels most important characters early on. With a wide variety of personalities and even mental deficit, each character is finely tuned and made more complex with each turn of the page. Whether a person prefers the stereotypical hero, the ruthless villain or the underdog who has constantly been beaten, there is somebody to love or hate for everybody with this dazzling cast of characters.

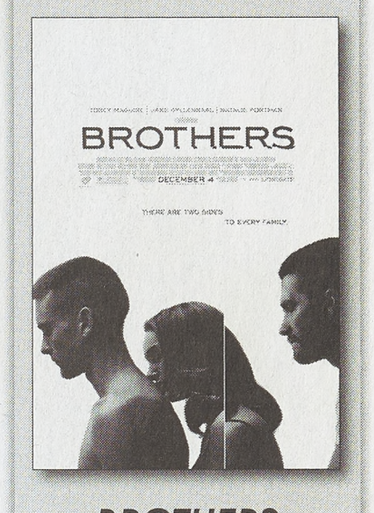
The novel starts off with a quiet beautiful day in a small town, which in perfect Stephen King style, ends up in horror as an immense seemingly glass dome drops on the city of Chester's Mill. The first chapters highlight the horrors of the happenings and the first of several murders that will take place in Chester's Mill. The US government can only speculate about the cause of the mysterious dome, the first of it's kind. Is it Aliens, a foreign enemy or something else?

Unable to remove to dome, find its cause, or help the 2000 citizens of Chester's Mill, the U.S government appointed unwilling war vet and town outsider Dale "Barbie" Barbara as the man in charge. Barbie and a few other notable townsfolk soon ban together to help the anarchy that has became the aftermath of "Dome Day" as it called. Together they group together to find out the source of the dome and stand up against Big Jim Rennie, a sleazy cars sales man and politician who will stop at nothing, not even murder to have control of Chester's Mill. The towns air supply, food, medicine are in short supply when it comes to a fiery end.

"Under the Dome" is a deeply complex novel and although it was very good, the end did seem to deflate the novel slightly. A town full of dark secrets and skeletons in their closets, or rather pantries, the characters of Chester's Mill might have deserved a better ending. Stephen King did attempt to write this novel twice, the first time in the 70's and he definitely nailed it.

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



BROTHERS

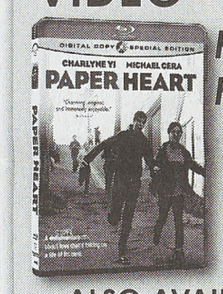
TOBEY MAGUIRE, JAKE GYLLENHAAL & NATALIE PORTMAN

TOP 5 PLAYING:

- *New Moon: $42M+*
- *The Blind Side: $40M+*
- *2012: $18M+*
- *Old Dogs: $16M+*
- *Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D: $16M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

VIDEO

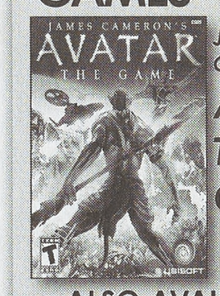


PAPER HEART

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Terminator Salvation - Widescreen*
- *Four Christmases*
- *Funny People*

GAMES



JAMES CAMERON'S AVATAR: THE GAME

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Rogue Warrior*
- *MX vs. ATV Reflex*
- *My Fitness Coach - Wii Exclusive*

MUSIC

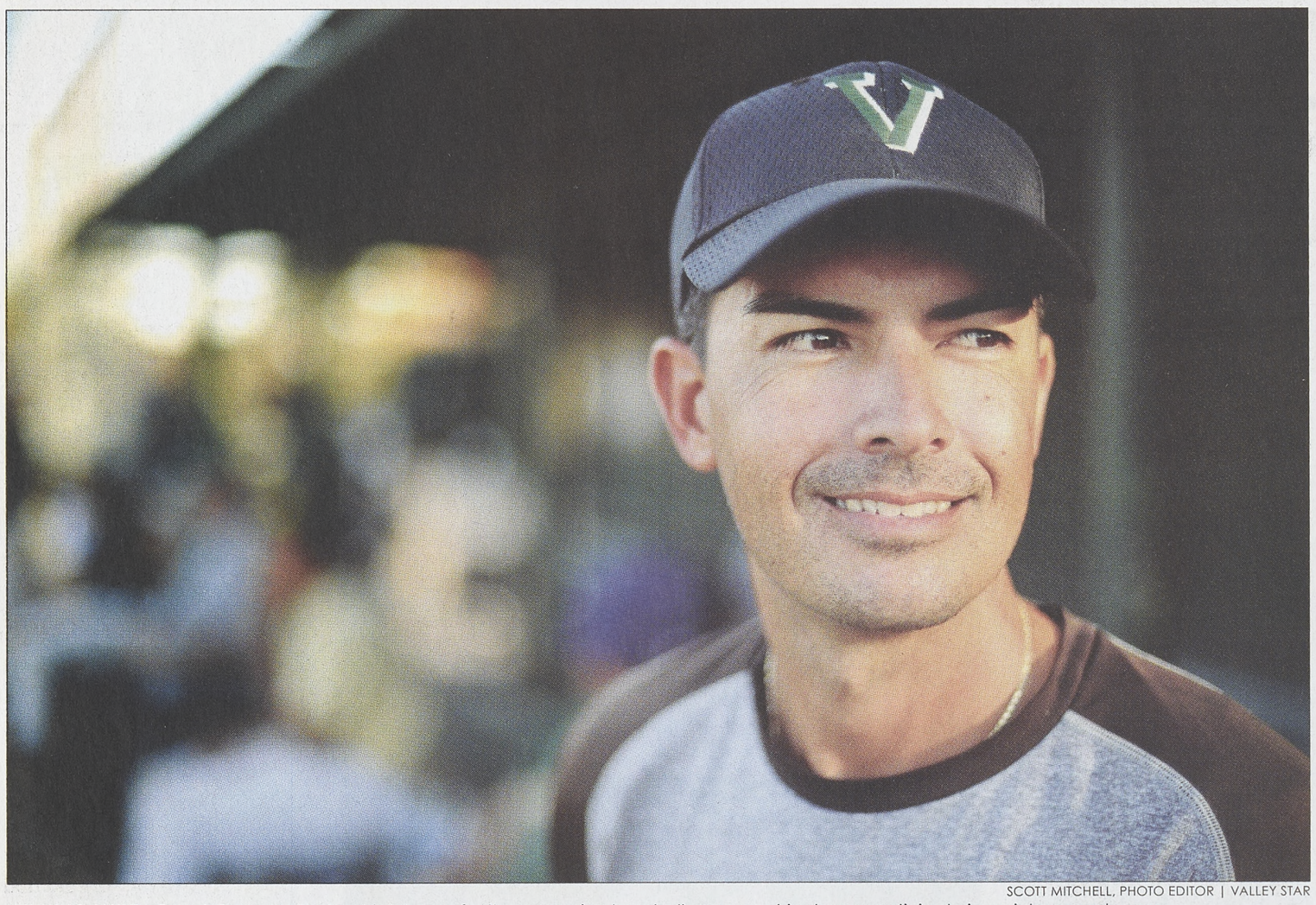
THE BRAVERY
STIR THE BLOOD

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *R.Kelly - 'Untitled'*
- *John Mayer - Battle Studies*
- *Allison Iraheta - Just Like you*

CONCERTS

- *Taylor Swift: Dec. 5 Nokia Theatre Live*
- *Willie Nelson: Dec. 8 Club Nokia*
- *Mannheim Steamroller: Dec. 11 Nokia Theatre Live*
- *Stevie Wonder: Dec. 12 Nokia Theatre Live*
- *Mew: Dec. 14 The Music Box @ the Fonda*



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

WINNING SMILE - Coach Dave Mallas has high hopes for the upcoming baseball season as his players participate in an inter-squad game.

GOOD MORALS AND GREAT GAMES

Coach Mallas believes in coaching more than baseball.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Dave Mallas is more than a baseball coach at Valley College; he is a life coach for many of his players and a moral compass for others. Mallas seizes every opportunity to help the young men who play for him succeed not only in baseball, but life in general.

"Being successful on the baseball field is one thing, but being an asset to our society and community is another," said Mallas, who has been married for eight years and has two young children. "As a staff we try and be positive influences on the players' lives, we all realize that this is a lot more than baseball, sometimes we're the only male role models in these guys' lives."

Mallas started playing baseball when he was 6-years-old. He graduated from Diamond Bar High School and went on to play for Rancho Santiago Community College, which is now Santa Ana Community College. Ending his college career at Cal State Chico, he scored the most runs and had the highest on-base percentage in Wildcat history. When his playing career was over, he decided to coach, soon landing his first job at Los Angeles Mission College.

The college hired him to start their baseball program from scratch after a five-year hiatus in the athletics program due to budget constraints. After two years with the Eagles, which he brought to the playoffs, he decided he was in need of a change and Valley hired him as head baseball coach. Students praise Mallas for his hard work and determination to help.

"Part of the reason why I came to Valley was for a scholarship, I knew Coach Mallas would help me out," said Oscar Soriano, sophomore starting pitcher for the Monarchs.

In the six years that Mallas has been head coach at Valley, he has had plenty of opportunity to change the lives of baseball players, but he refuses to stop. He also heads up the physical education program at the newly built adapted gym, which is equipped to help students with special needs, both physical and mental. For Mallas, having a master's degree in physical education and several classes in adapted physical education under his belt means having the privilege to give back to his players and students.

"I have the best of both worlds, I get to coach the players and help students who need it at the adapted gym, I'm a lucky guy," Mallas said with a shrug and a smile. "I love what I do; every day is a new experience."

PHYSICAL FITNESS FOR EVERY BODY

The new Adapted Physical Education Center helps the disabled and elderly with

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently to formally introduce one of its newest facilities, the Adapted Physical Education Center. The center serves elderly, disabled or otherwise incapacitated students in conjunction with the Disabled Students Programs and Services program (DSPS).

"I know through personal experience if a gym such as this wasn't made available to disabled people such as myself, or elderly people, my daily function would be impossible," said Kimberly Horton, a disabled Valley student who has been an active participant in the Adapted P.E and spoke at the event.

The gym currently serves more than 100 Valley students, with a wide range of physical and mental disabilities. Some of the students attend with a goal to make their disability more bearable, others to shape up, and a few to keep up with their physical therapy that is no longer covered by insurance.

"This isn't a job. You help people and it's very rewarding," said Cynthia Garcia, assistant at the gym. "I don't ever want to leave, it's the best job I have ever had."

The program for the gym is currently run by Dave Mallas, who has his masters in physical education and has taken several classes in adapted physical education. Mallas and his four assistants enthusiastically take on daily challenges of running the program. The staff adapts to each person's disability and need. Whether it's the use of a soothing voice, or physically moving a person from wheelchair to machine, the P.E center does it all.

"Safety is number one in our gym, there is a lot of potential for injury if you are not careful," Mallas said. "But I love what I do, every day is new great experience."

The staff and students at the gym have an upbeat can-do attitude, but they are hopeful that they can add a few more students or volunteers. When asked what could be done to improve the gym, the only answer that was given by many, including staffer Robert Ninfo was to "get more people in."

If you are interested in attending or learning more about the Adapted Physical Education Center, contact the DSPS office at (818) 947-2581.

SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

IN SHAPE- Jerry, a Vietnam War Veteran, working out in the Adapted Gym.

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

UNDER PRESSURE

Former Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis' tenure was short-lived because of perception more than win-loss record.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

The recent firing of former Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis and the resignation of former Florida State Head Coach Bobby Bowden show that image and speculation are just as important to college football as the win itself.

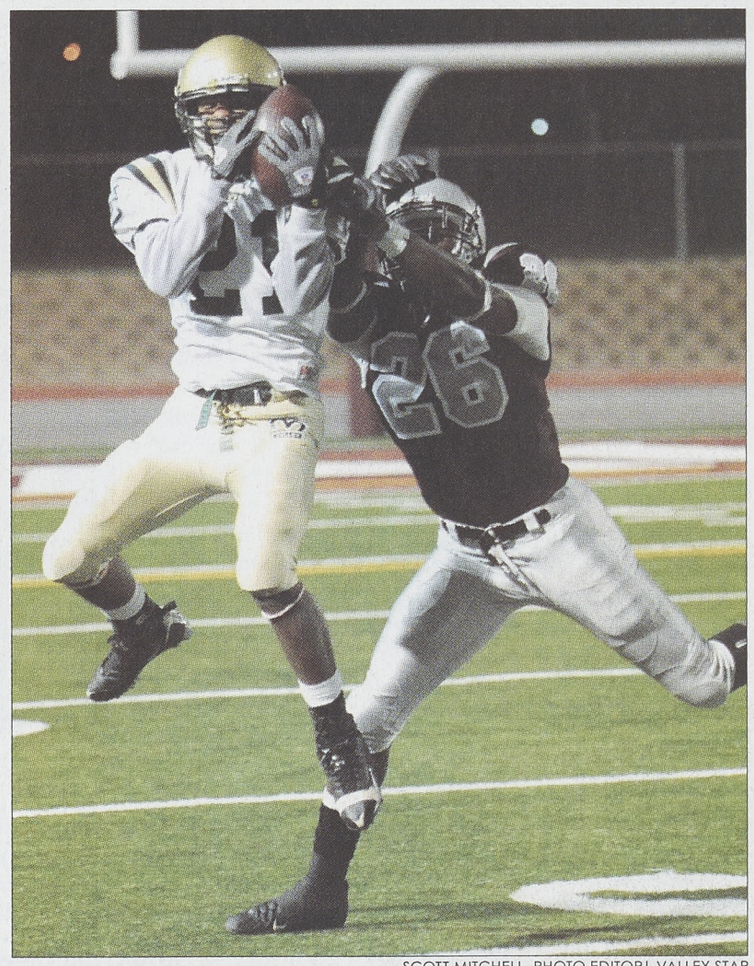
Weis was fired after posting consecutive 6-6 records for the Fighting Irish. While this isn't great for any Division 1 team, the fact that Notre Dame carries such a huge legacy and devout following makes Weis' "decided schematic advantage" appear non-existent.

Yes, what Weis said smacks of hubris, especially for an NFL offensive coordinator who had exactly no head coaching experience, but the reason he was fired was solely due to Notre Dame's inference from the media that the college couldn't manage its team.

Weis only had success in his initial years at Notre Dame because he was working with established juniors and seniors left over from the Tyrone Willlingham and Bob Davie eras. It's expected that coaches who have young teams are not going to have the greatest win-loss record.

It wasn't until Brady Quinn's senior year that the Cleveland Browns quarterback truly blossomed into the NFL player that he is today. In his final season, Quinn averaged 110 more passing yards and nearly doubled his season high touchdown mark with 32 passes from his previous high of 17. This may or may not be due to Weis' tutelage but that type of progress is traditional with players who stay with the school long enough. Weis wasn't given the full advantage of seeing the players he recruited to Notre Dame stay there long enough to mature and be successful.

Every die-hard college football fan wants their team to be undefeated and win by an incredibly large margin. The football program as an administration wants that because with every win the team comes closer to a bowl berth and that means millions of dollars for the school and underfunded athletic programs. There does need to be a level of forgiveness to allow for player development before the universities count the dollars and cents.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR| VALLEY STAR

OFFENSIVE STAR - Wide receiver Travion Odom will return next season.

BANQUET HONORS MONARCH ATHLETES

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

The Monarch football team and members of the athletic department gathered in Monarch Hall last week to celebrate shared experiences and acknowledge the efforts of individuals both on and off the field at the annual football banquet.

The team was treated to pizza, pasta, and salad before the speeches and awards presentation began. Head Football Coach Jim Fenwick set the tone and direction of the night with a heart felt and poignant speech that focused on the importance of team work, effort, and what it takes to build a winning football program.

Fenwick thanked all of the players, coaches, trainers, and support people who worked hard and gave their best to the program. He re-affirmed his commitment of preparing every one of his players for a chance to get into a division 1 program, while emphasizing the importance of academics. He made a promise to each of his players that his support would not only show on the football field, but also in the classroom.

Fenwick thanked the sophomores for their leadership roles and for sharing their knowledge and experience with the freshmen. He then told the returning players that they had the responsibility of sharing their knowledge and work ethic with next year's freshmen.

"This is how a football program is built," said Fenwick.

Fenwick talked about the importance of being part of a team, pointing out that even though some players would be honored individually, the success of the program is in the hands of the entire team.

A 15-minute slide show and video clip of highlights was played, followed by each of the coaches making a short speech before passing out the individual awards. Hard work, character, dedication, and leadership traits were the words that were used by the coaches to describe the honored players.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

EVERYBODY'S FRIEND - Trung Nguyen, "T-Bone" received an award at the annual football banquet last week.

SCHEDULES

Women's Basketball:
Dec. 11th - 13th Time: TBA
Moorpark Tournament
@ Moorpark

Men's Basketball:
Dec. 5th 7 p.m.
@ L.A. Trade Technical College